

outbreak of smallpox in 1871. A large part of the civilian population, unlike the army, is beyond having any further direct effect upon the race; so that to judge the selective effects of any additional mortality which it suffers, it is important to know what proportion is contributed by (i.) adult women and children under military age, (ii.) adult men, (iii.) old men and women unlikely to have any more children.

The only direct evidence of racial injury which is here brought forward is that the records of stature and physical measurements in the official *Comptes rendus du Recrutement* of the French Army since 1830, and the official records (unpublished) of the War Office before that date. Unfortunately, these figures, upon which such important arguments are based, are not reproduced. We must content ourselves with the statement that the average height of the annual contingents born during the Napoleonic wars was about 1,625 mm.; of those born after the war it was about 1,655 mm. Without knowing how many years subsequent to 1815 were taken into the average, it is impossible to compare these figures with the corresponding rise in height observed in other countries during the last century. The conclusion of Callignon that the children in Dordogne, born during and immediately after the Franco-Prussian War, were especially vigorous and free from infirmities is fairly mentioned, as is that of Ammon that the Badenese recruits of these years did not differ in stature from other years. Vacher de Laponge came to the opposite conclusion.

There are much more serious signs of bias in the section on Syphilis and Gonorrhœa. In spite of the table (p. 195) showing for 1905-1907 the rates of prevalence of these diseases in different armies,

Germany (1905-6)	...	...	...	19.8	per 1,000
France (1906)	...	...	...	28.6	"
Austria (1907)	...	...	...	54.2	"
Russia (1906)	...	...	...	62.7	"
United Kingdom (1907)	...	...	...	68.4	"
United States (1907)	...	...	...	167.8	"

we find in the Summary (p. 201) "Venereal disease is extraordinarily fostered by militarism, as the medical statistics of all War Departments show." It is surprising to see this "scourge of militarism" eight times more prevalent in the United States than in Germany; while the conditions in Europe were worst in the country which maintained the smallest army and which adhered to the anti-militarist method of voluntary enlistment. For the countries taken separately these figures can prove nothing without a knowledge of the corresponding age-group of civilians. To compare, as Mr. Kellogg repeatedly does in the British statistics, the proportion of recruits rejected on account of syphilis with the proportion found in the army is grossly and inexcusably misleading. Apart from the fact that a syphilitic is unlikely to offer himself for a medical examination, the recruits are mostly boys of 18 or 19, and it is just in the succeeding ten years that this disease and gonorrhœa find most of their victims. This objection, which was emphatically stated at the Eugenics Congress in 1912, must have been familiar to Mr. Kellogg, yet the only comparison which is made between the army and the civilian population is a comparison of those rejected as recruits with those admitted to hospital as soldiers. The serious objection that a syphilitic would not ordinarily offer himself is admitted in a footnote, but the difference between the syphilis rates in youth and manhood is entirely neglected. R. A. F.

Sergi, PROFESSOR GUISEPPE. *L'Eugenica e la Decadenza delle Nazioni.* (Reprinted from the Transactions of the Italian Society for the Progress of the Sciences, Rome, March, 1916.)

AFTER a tribute to the genius of Francis Galton, and a graceful reference to the work of the Eugenics Education Society, Professor Sergi goes on to discuss the racial effects of war, with special reference to the present European conflict. He considers that the current view, which finds the

sole dysgenic action of war in the destruction of young and vigorous males, is inadequate, and he suggests that other graver and more lasting effects are expressed in certain demographic phenomena which are associated with long wars, as notably in the decreased birth-rate. This phenomenon, which has reached its highest development in France, has been generally attributed to voluntary limitation of the family, but Sergi points out that it is apparent in statistics from the first years of the nineteenth century, that is to say, long before the Malthusian propaganda began, and, further, that the decrease has been greater and steadier than in other countries where that propaganda has been equally active. He would, therefore, ascribe it, at all event in part, to a lessened vitality in the nation, resulting from the exhausting effects of the Napoleonic wars. A similar condition of relative sterility, he remarks, is recorded in France after the campaigns of Louis XIV., and, in remote history, the decadence of the great empires of antiquity was probably due in a great measure to a like cause. The factors that bring about this result are numerous and complex, and many of them are obscure. There is the elimination of the younger and more robust members of the male population, and their replacement as begetters by older men whose fertilising capacity is less. There is also the reaction on sexual function of the nervous disorders caused by the stresses to which the survivors amongst the combatants have been exposed. And finally there are the numerous depressing influences, moral and physical, which act on both the military and the civilian population during great national struggles. It is chiefly by keeping these latter influences under control, by organising the national resources, and by maintaining the regular functioning of social life, that the State can do anything to check the evil effects of the present war on the vitality of the people, and it should be the work of eugenicists to promote and second such efforts.

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Davenport, CHARLES B., Director of Department of Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbour. *The Feebly Inhibited: Nomadism, or the Wandering Impulse, with Special Reference to Heredity; Inheritance of Temperament*. Publication No. 236 of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1915. Pp. 158.

THE two papers included in this volume are the second and third, respectively, of a series of studies on the "feebly inhibited"—a term which the author uses to emphasise the fact that the defectives in question are those who show their mental abnormality in the sphere of the emotions and the will rather than in that of the intelligence.

Dr. Davenport's point of view and the principles of his method are essentially the same in all his studies of morbid psychology, so that they can be sufficiently illustrated by the description of any one of these studies—by that, for instance, on nomadism, where they appear in relatively simple form. By nomadism Dr. Davenport means a specific wandering impulse, which he regards as a common and fundamental factor in such diverse conditions as the voyaging of the professional sailor and the ambulatory automatism of the epileptic. Nomadism, he considers, is in some degree a normal tendency of man; it is a racial trait which is seen in more accentuated form in the anthropoid apes and in many primitive peoples, and is tolerably frequent as a transitory disposition in children and adolescents. For the most part the adult individuals of our civilisation who have this nomadic impulse are capable of inhibiting it to some extent under the pressure of social custom, but, if the inhibitory mechanism is imperfectly developed, or if it is subject to periodic abeyance, the impulse comes into action. That is why nomadism is observed in association with many psychoses, and yet is not a constant symptom of any of them; fugues occur, for instance, in epilepsy and in neurasthenia, but only in some epileptics and in some neurasthenics—in those,